

June 15, 2005

Ryegate Newspapers = Harlowton Paper

**RE: Application for a General Quarry Permit for Several Rock
Collecting Sites in Wheatland County**

Dear Editor:

**Please place the following notice in the legal publication section of
your newspaper once each week for three consecutive weeks:**

Legal Notice

**Notice of Application for Operating Permit (pursuant to the
Metal Mine Reclamation Act, Section 82-4-353 (1), MCA).**

**Big Sky Masonry (Big Sky), P. O. Box 4306, Bozeman, MT filed
an application on May 24, 2005 for an Operating Permit from
the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ),
Environmental Management Bureau in Helena. Big Sky has
lease agreements with several ranches in Wheatland County to
quarry and hand pick sandstone rock for landscaping and
masonry purposes. All of the operations would be on private
lands in sections 3, 4, and 5, Township 6 North and Range 17
East, 6.5 miles south of Shawmut, MT.**

**The proposed operation has been reviewed for compliance
under a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental
Assessment (SEA) for a General Quarry Operating Permit
published by the DEQ in February 2004. DEQ has determined
that this operation does not meet the requirements listed in
the SEA because Big Sky would have more than 5 acres
unreclaimed at one time. Big Sky Masonry cannot receive an
operating permit until additional environmental analysis is
completed. If Big Sky develops additional lease agreements
on other ranches in the future, they would have to apply for an
amendment or revision to the operating permit. If a permit is
issued, Big Sky will post a reclamation bond to ensure**

reclamation after completion of the quarrying and rock collecting activities.

The applicant seeks approval of its application for an operating permit that would cover up to total of approximately 1000 permit acres. Reclamation plans call for the reclamation of all the surface disturbances.

Copies of the application can be reviewed by the public at DEQ offices at 1520 E. 6th Ave., in Helena, MT. Please submit comments or questions on the proposal by July 5, 2005. For information on the project and to submit comments on the proposal, contact:

Patrick Plantenberg
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 2000901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
(406) 444-4960 or e-mail at pplantenberg@state.mt.us

Please send your invoice and affidavit of publication to DEQ at the above address to the attention of Patrick Plantenberg. Please indicate that the bill applies to Doc # EMB5035193. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patrick Plantenberg
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Environmental Management Bureau

File pending bigsky.37

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PP/jac